

At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 7TH JULY, 2009 AT 5.30 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor B. Heron in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Copeland, Paul Maddison, D. Smith, Timmins, Wake and J. Walton.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors O'Connor, Scaplehorn and Speding.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th June, 2009

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th June, 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no interests declared.

Anti Social Behaviour Review – Polycarbonate Glasses

The Chief Executive submitted a report and addendum (copies circulated) to provide Members with the analysis and feedback from the City Centre pilot into polycarbonate drinking vessels.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Leanne Davis, Drug and Alcohol Strategy Manager and Inspector Jackie Clarke of Northumbria Police presented the report.

Inspector Clarke informed the Committee that there was not a major problem with glass related incidents in Sunderland but introducing polycarbonated glasses would help to reduce risk and the fear of crime.

Ms. Davis advised that the potential costs incurred to roll out the scheme across all City Centre establishments would be in the region of £80,000.

It was hoped to encourage the use of polycarbonate glasses through the Best Bar None Scheme which recognises socially responsible premises.

Four of the premises that had partaken in the use of the glasses had won awards through the Best Bar None Scheme.

Inspector Clarke also commented that the Scheme would help impact on other areas such as safety of employees and also reduce the number of injuries that occur due to broken glass.

Councillor Timmins commented that many venues also catered for children, so any scheme which cut the risk of injury was an excellent idea.

Councillor Wake commented that the introduction of the glasses would be a win/win situation but was surprised that the Council and its partners were expected to provide 50% of the funding.

Ms. Davis advised that the polycarbonate glasses were more expensive for an initial outlay but once establishments were on board, money would be saved long term.

Inspector Clarke agreed that most pubs should fund the scheme themselves, but to enable maximum participation during the current financial situation, the initial outlay from the Council could encourage establishments to join.

In response to Councillor Copeland's query, Ms. Davis advised that of the big chains, Wetherspoons and Yates' currently use the polycarbonate glasses but that this had not been rolled out nationally.

Councillor Copeland suggested sponsorship by the breweries on the glasses to cover the costs of implementing the Scheme.

Councillor D. Smith enquired if investigations had been made into the hygiene of using the glasses as they are made from organic materials.

Norma Johnston, Assistant Head of Environmental Services, advised that no investigations had been made and that she was of the belief the glasses could be treated with the same standards as the regular glasses but Ms. Johnston would look into the issue.

Councillor Paul Maddison suggested that for any Council hospitality events, there should be an insistence to use polycarbonate glasses in order to set an example.

The Chairman commented that thankfully the City had few incidents of glassing but there was always a risk that such incidents could occur. He suggested the Safer City Partnership be encouraged to kick start the Scheme in the City Centre with a view to expanding to outlying areas.

The Chairman also suggested investigations be made into the affordability of the Scheme and for the issue to be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the issue of funding the introduction of polycarbonate glasses in City Centre venues be investigated further and brought back to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (ii) the report be received and noted.

Policy Development and Review 2009/10 – Scope

The Chief Executive submitted a report and addendum (copies circulated) to put forward proposals and seek agreement from Members in relation to the forthcoming policy review into anti social behaviour and alcohol.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Stuart Douglass, Safer Communities Manager, presented the report and advised that the Safer Sunderland Annual Forum would be held in October at the Stadium of Light, where the board Members would take queries from the public.

Mr. Douglass suggested that the public evidence could be brought to a future meeting and also the current draft of the Anti Social Behaviour Strategy for consideration.

Norma Johnston, Assistant Head of Environmental Services, advised of a meeting with the Home Office on the new Code of Practice in improving the situation on the enforcement of controls on the sale and consumption of alcohol. It was suggested a report be brought to the September meeting of the Committee.

Councillor J. Walton enquired as to who all the co-operating bodies were, mentioned under paragraph 5.2

Mr. Douglass advised that the report listed the suggested bodies that were involved in key areas of Sunderland and that a clearer, more defined list of partners could be provided to Councillors at the next meeting.

Ms. Johnston advised of the problem regarding off licences and supermarkets selling alcohol resulting in people drinking before they enter the City Centre.

Councillor Copeland informed the Committee on the Probation Service's new programme for people involved in anti social behaviour and suggested the Scheme be monitored.

Councillor Copeland also commented that the alcohol exclusion zones introduced in Brighton were working and suggested the proposal be looked at along with other issues.

Mr. Douglass commented that alcohol treatment requirements can be included as part of a sentence and advised that the Probation Service could be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on how the programme was working.

In relation to alcohol free zones, Mr. Douglass advised that the City does have exclusion zones. A blanket ban had been considered and decided against by the Safer Sunderland Board. However, the Committee could look into this issue further.

Councillor J. Walton commented that the current exclusion zones needed to be enforced before extending the Scheme further.

Mr. Douglass commented that it was worth clarifying that the designated locations do not prevent the drinking of alcohol, as an offence is only committed if a person continues to drink when they have been asked to stop by a Police Officer.

Councillor J. Walton enquired as to when Police Officers have the power to impose fines and prosecutions.

Mr. Douglass advised that if a Police Officer requests a member of the public to cease drinking in a designated area and they fail to do so, then it becomes an offence which they could be charged for.

Councillor D. Smith commented on the Council byelaws which made it an offence to be caught with alcohol in play areas and cemeteries, and believed the Police seemed to be reluctant to enforce.

Mr. Douglass advised that he would consult with an officer from City Solicitors on the correct interpretation of the alcohol exclusion zones and clarify at a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Timmins commented that there was a need to get all partners on board, not just the Police, such as Magistrates and so on, to make a concerted effort to address the issue.

Councillor Wake informed the Committee of several incidents where alcohol had been sold to children and expressed his disappointment over the lenient penalties that were imposed upon the premises.

Mr. Douglass commented on the close working relationship with the Magistrates' Court and advised that they could give evidence on their procedures in dealing with such offences at a future meeting of the Committee.

Ms. Johnston advised of residents' right to request reviews of premises through Licensing and Regulatory meetings and also commented that the revocation of licences by the Magistrates were more of a punishment than financial penalties.

Councillor Wake commented that there was an ongoing issue in Washington with off licences selling alcohol to children.

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, advised that it was not always the fault of the off licence as many cases involve adults buying the alcohol for children.

In relation to the lenient fines, Mr. Terrett commented that these would most likely be fixed penalties issued by the Police and not the Magistrates' Court.

Councillor Copeland commented that there had been a problem for a number of years with youths drinking on the streets and enquired where the Police stood in being able to confiscate alcohol.

Mr. Douglass advised that Police Officers had the power to move those people who were believed to be causing or about to cause a problem and suggested that clarification of powers could be included in the Designated Places report.

3. RESOLVED that the scope of the review be agreed and that the Committee receive additional evidence from the Safer Sunderland Forum scheduled for 23rd October at the Stadium of Light.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period of 1st July – 31st October, 2009

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st July – 31st October, 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman requested Members' views on the Committee continuing to receive the Forward Plan on a regular basis.

Councillor Copeland enquired on the siting of the proposed development of a supported housing unit for people who misuse alcohol, mentioned within the Forward Plan.

The Chairman advised that the siting had not been established yet and a report would be brought to Committee at a later date.

Having considered the Forward Plan, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the Committee continue to receive the Forward Plan on a regular basis.

Work Programme 2009-10

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy attached) to inform Members of the current Work Programme for the Committee's work during the 2009-10 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) B. HERON,
Chairman.

**PERFORMANCE REPORT AND VALUE FOR MONEY SELF-ASSESSMENT
2008/2009**

Report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive

1 Why has this report come to committee?

- 1.1 To provide members with a value for money assessment in relation to Safer Communities for the period April 2008 to March 2009 as part of the committee's work programme. It includes findings from a range of performance information including spend, investment, improvements, residents perception and both national and local indicators including those within the Local Area Agreement.

2 Background

- 2.1 On an annual basis the Audit Commission's 'Use of Resources Assessment' considers how well organisations are managing and using their resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. The Audit Commission provides a score and judgement on value for money in the use of resources which in turn contributes to an overall score for the council's Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Organisational Assessment.
- 2.2 Although it is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Value for Money Self Assessment to inform this judgement the council has chosen to do so to demonstrate how well we manage and use our financial resources to achieve value for money.
- 2.3 The Audit Commission has continued to publish 'Value for Money Cost Profiles' which inform our assessment and are referred to within the report. The cost profiles are used to compare Sunderland's position relative to other Metropolitan Authorities and its 'Nearest Neighbourhoods' (a group of other authorities which are assessed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as having comparable demographics to Sunderland).
- 2.4 Members will recall that a new national performance framework has been implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators which replaces the Best Value Performance Indicators and Performance Assessment Framework Performance Indicators. As a consequence 2008/2009 has been a transition year as we develop baselines for the new indicators and ensure any corrective action will be effective in the new framework.
- 2.5 Two residents surveys were undertaken during 2008/2009, the council's annual residents survey which finds out residents views on council services

and the Place survey which is a statutory government survey which finds out residents views on all public services in the area. The Place Survey is a statutory survey which takes place every two years. The results from the Place Survey are used as the basis to calculate a number of new national perception indicators some of which are included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). This report contains results for those performance indicators.

- 2.6 As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the LAA. Targets have been agreed for these indicators through a process of negotiation with partners and government. These improvement targets will also be a key consideration in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people.

3 Current position

- 3.1 In preparing the report Directorates have reviewed the Audit Commission's Value for Money cost profiles in addition to a whole range of other performance information including satisfaction levels, and benchmarking information in order to formulate a balanced assessment of the position of each service area.
- 3.2 During the first year of the implementation of the new national performance framework we are only required by government to set targets for those performance indicators we have chosen to form part of the LAA. However to ensure we maintain a robust commitment to service improvement across the partnership in Sunderland both directorates and partners have, where possible, set targets for the other national and local performance indicators for 2008/2009. This cannot be done for all indicators as this is the first year of collection for a number of the new national indicator set and 2008/2009 needs to be used as a base lining year against which we can target future improvement. It is also important to note that in relation to many of the new national indicator set data are available at different points of the year and will not always readily follow the quarterly monitoring cycle.

Appendix 1 provides a value for money assessment of each service area within the committees remit. The information is structured in the following way:

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| Section 1 | Financial information – how our spend compares with other authorities and efficiency gains |
| Section 2 | Key improvements delivered – how we have spent the money including investment and progress in relation to those actions we identified in last years value for money assessment |
| Section 3 | What residents think of the services – results of the consultation exercises |
| Section 4 | Performance – how the service is performing including progress in relation to LAA targets including any areas of risk |
| Section 5 | Next steps – Plans to achieve greater value for money in 2009/2010 |

Appendix 2 provides an overview of the position for relevant national indicators and also any local performance indicators that have been retained to supplement areas in the performance framework that are not well covered by the new national indicator set.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Committee consider the content of the report and provide comment where relevant to be included in the 2008/09 value for money assessment that will be presented to the Cabinet in October.

Section 1 Financial information

Service area	Cost per Head		Benchmarking Group	Latest Benchmark Position			
	2007/08	2008/09		Lower Quartile (less cost)	Lower Median Quartile	Upper Median Quartile	Upper Quartile (higher cost)
Community Safety	£2.40	£2.49	Metropolitan authorities				
			Nearest Neighbours				

Sunderland's costs for community safety are lower quartile when compared to both metropolitan authorities and nearest neighbour authorities.

Section 2 Investment and Key Improvements made during 2008/2009

A range of initiatives have been introduced to make the city centre a safer place to enjoy a night out, such as Best Bar None and the polycarbonate glasses scheme. In its first year, 13 city centre venues successfully achieved accredited Best Bar None status demonstrating their commitment to working in partnership to provide a safe and secure environment for their customers and staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out across the city in 2009/2010.

Targeted work has taken place in communities experiencing disproportionate levels of crime e.g. 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' which has helped improve feelings of safety.

Targeted police operations and partnership working has helped to close the gap between communities experiencing above average crime and disorder levels and the city average. In 2008/2009, only 5 wards in the city had recorded crime rates above the city average with three of these wards being in the city centre (and therefore affected by the city centre effect of issues such as higher visitor numbers, night time economy and the commercial centre).

As part of the Strategic Investment Plan a project to deploy rapid response CCTV cameras across the area regeneration frameworks in Sunderland has been implemented. Four rapid deployment cameras will be available for each area. With this facility available units can be relocated periodically or in response to a particular problem being highlighted which will allow a range of issues to be addressed including crime, anti social behaviour, fly tipping, nuisance neighbours, problems in parks and open spaces and special events. This process is facilitated by the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Groups. A further four cameras will be held centrally to support intensive local activity or support other citywide crime and disorder deployment priorities. The CCTV system has now been procured and is operational awaiting a full launch in approximately 12 weeks following the refurbishment of the control room.

Since April 2007, additional home security has been provided to over 3000 victims of crime and vulnerable people to reduce risk of repeat victimisation and improve feelings of safety. 97% of those who have received the service said they felt safer as a result.

In March 2008 Sunderland City Council and its partners were announced as a Beacon Authority for Reducing Re-offending, one of the highest accolade of award schemes. This remains a priority for 2009/2010. A challenging target has been set to reduce the rate of proven re-offending by young offenders by 10% by 2010/2011. To date, the service has made a 19.4% reduction in the number of offences per 100 offenders when compared to the 2005 baseline.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service continues to deliver a range of interventions aimed at preventing young people getting involved in crime as well as dealing with those already in the criminal justice system to prevent re-offending. The Youth Offending Service continues to be one of the most high-performing in the country. The types of initiatives which engage with those at risk of offending and those already offending include: Wear kids, On Track, Phoenix, Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP), Tackle It, Positive Futures, Challenge and Support, Parenting support and the Be Safe Weapons programme.

Trading standards and the police continue to educate licensees about under age sales of alcohol and enforce legislation where appropriate.

The successful taxi marshalls scheme will continue and become a permanent feature to help people feel safer in the city centre

The Safer Sunderland Partnership is committed to reducing the impact of domestic violence and has introduced new ways to help support victims. When tackling domestic abuse the main aim is ensuring the safety of victims and children who are experiencing domestic abuse, reducing levels of domestic abuse and raising awareness of the support available. A 24-hour helpline, refuge accommodation and specialist support workers are already available but new measures have been put in place aimed at providing additional support throughout the whole process. A new special domestic violence court has been introduced, with specially trained magistrates, experienced in dealing with domestic abuse cases. Support workers support victims through the court process and the aim is a successful prosecution and a reduction in repeat abuse. The third domestic violence refuge opened in September 2008. This is a 10 unit purpose built refuge providing accommodation, tailored support and guidance according to individuals recognised needs.

Section 3 Customer Focus

The annual MORI survey tells us that residents generally perceive Sunderland as a safe place to be with 81% saying they generally feel safe in Sunderland as a whole compared to 78% in 2007, only 17% say they feel unsafe compared to 20% in 2007. In addition there are no differences in perceptions of general safety between white and ethnic residents this year whereas during the previous year black minority ethnic (BME) residents tended to feel less safe than others.

The percentage of residents feeling very or fairly safe walking outside in the city centre alone in the daytime slightly declined in 2008, from 87% in 2007 to 84% in 2008. While the percentage feeling very or a bit unsafe walking outside in the city centre alone after dark improved from 46% in 2007 to 41% in 2008.

94% of residents feel very or fairly safe in their own home compared to 93% in 2007.

Delivery of a marketing and communications plan including a major campaign (Not in our City) to tackle the perceptions of crime and disorder and improve feelings of safety, has supported improvements in perceptions of crime and disorder and worry about crime in Sunderland. The latter has improved significantly, dropping from 47% in March 2004 to 31% in 2008/2009.

Only 39% of residents feel informed about what the Council is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour, while 55% feel they are not informed. These are the same percentages that were recorded in 2007.

The place Survey tells us that resident's perception of anti social behaviour as a problem has improved considerably in Sunderland. Out of those surveyed:

- 23.5% of residents perceived anti-social behaviour to be a problem in their area compared to 30% in 2006.
- 32.7% of residents considered drunk and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area compared to 37% in 2006.
- 30.6% of residents considered drug use or drug dealing to be a problem compared to 47% in 2006.

Section 4 Performance Information (outcomes delivered)

There are a total of 31 indicators for Safer Communities in 2008/2009. As the majority of these indicators form part of the new National Indicator set and this is the first full year of collection we are unable to provide a direction of travel against them.

In relation to Safer Communities six national indicators are priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets will be a key consideration in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people. An overview of performance can be found in the following table.

Performance Indicator	Performance 2008/09	Target 2008/09	Target achieved	Target 2009/10
NI 30 Reoffending rate of prolific and priority offenders	1.10	1.12 (18% reduction in convictions)		17% reduction
NI 19 Rate of proven reoffending by young people	96 offences per 100 offenders	113 offences per 100 offenders		110 offences per 100 offenders)
NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate	8.84 per 1000 population	3% reduction 9.32 per 1000 population		5% reduction
NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	23.5%	Not set baseline year		n/a survey undertaken every two years

There are no key risks in relation to the LAA at this stage. There are a number of areas of positive performance as follows:

In terms of recorded crime, Sunderland's crime rate continues to be below the national average with a 3% reduction for 2008/2009 compared to 2007/2008. This means that in the 6 years since 2002/2003 there have been almost 15,000 fewer victims of recorded crime (39% reduction).

Table 1 below shows a summary of performance against the main recorded crime categories for 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. It can be seen that there have been reductions in every main recorded crime category in the last year.

Measure	Volume	% change
Total crime	782 fewer crimes	3% reduction
House burglary	22 fewer crimes	2% reduction
Criminal damage	664 fewer crimes	10% reduction
Theft from motor vehicle	105 fewer crimes	6% reduction
Theft of motor vehicle/TWOC	159 fewer crimes	19% reduction
Robbery	9 fewer crimes	5% reduction
Violent crime	39 fewer crimes	1% reduction
Assault with less serious injury	219 fewer crimes	8% reduction
Other wounding	96 fewer crimes	4% reduction
Serious acquisitive crime	295 fewer crimes	8% reduction
Most serious violence excl GBH	19 fewer crimes	23% reduction

In relation to the assault with injury crime rate the target of 9.32 incidents per 1000 population has been achieved. The rate in Sunderland is 8.84 per 1000 incidents (this is the first year of collection no trend data is available).

In terms of numbers of problematic drug users in effective treatment, the current figures (as at end March 2009) for the 2008/2009 year show achievement as 812. This is 93 (10%) short of the target of 905 and demonstrates a slight decline over February. Though overall achievement of numbers of drug users in effective treatment remains lower than is required, rapid access to treatment pathways remain in place, as well as comparatively high rates of planned discharges and access to relevant clinical interventions.

There has been an 8.5% reduction in youth re-offending to 2007/2008. This has been supported by work around the pathways to reducing re-offending such as, education, employment and housing.

The ARCH multi-agency racist incident reporting system continues to improve. ARCH has been operating in Sunderland since October 2007 and there are now 13 partner agencies that have joined the ARCH scheme. Over 120 people from these organisations have been trained on the web based IT systems allowing them to add incidents onto ARCH. Once an incident is reported to ARCH, victims of racist incidents can be offered the most appropriate support, and where possible, action can be taken against perpetrators. The ARCH system is confidential and victims and witnesses can also choose to remain anonymous. During 2008/2009 259 racist

incidents were reported through the ARCH system, 100 incidents were followed up and victims offered support where relevant.

Section 5 Next Steps

The council works with a range of agencies through the Safer Sunderland Partnership to ensure that everyone in Sunderland is, and feels, safe and secure. The Partnership has developed the Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008-2023 which sets out long-term plans to address some of the most challenging issues in Sunderland such as drug and alcohol misuse and anti-social behaviour.

The plan is being delivered through a combination of resources from different agencies and external sources including Sunderland City Council's budget. For 2009/2010 the council has allocated the following additional resources to help increase safety and reduce crime:

- Additional resources of £162,000 to priority projects, will help to support the provision of security measures for small retailers, increase capacity to target neighbourhood offenders and protect high risk domestic violence victims.
- Funding of £271,000 to the Council's Youth Offending Service. This will support the Restorative Justice project which allows victims of crime to meet and talk to offenders about the impact of crime on members of the public. The Youth Offending Service contacted all victims in 2008/2009 and 61 victims participated in the scheme. In addition the money will support the work of the Phoenix Project to educate 121 young people about the risks of fire and fire setting during 2009/2010.
- Funding of £42,000 is to be provided to meet the maintenance and operating costs of previously installed CCTV systems to continue to provide protection and reassurance to the public, businesses and visitors.

A sum of £962,000 was also allocated over a period of five years for 24 CCTV cameras which can be rapidly deployed across Sunderland to help prevent crime and disorder.

Northumbria Police have also announced an additional 30 Neighbourhood Police Officers for Sunderland to be based in Neighbourhood Policing teams. Fifteen officers are now in post and the remainder will be deployed by the end of 2009.

Reference	Description	2007/08 Out turn	2008/09 Outturn	Trend	2008/09 Target	On Target	2009/10 Target
Being one council							
Local Indicators							
BVPI 2a	The level of the Equality Standard for local government to which the Authority conforms in respect of gender, race and disability.	Level 2	Level 3	↑	Level 4	✗	Level 3
BVPI 11a	Percentage of top-paid 5% of local authority staff who are women.	38.97%	39.41%	↑	41%	✗	43%
BVPI 11b	The percentage of the top 5% of Local Authority staff who are from an ethnic minority (excludes not knowns and refused).	1.36%	1.60%	↑	1.50%	✓	1.90%
BVPI 11c	Percentage of the top paid 5% of staff who have a disability (excludes not knowns and refused).	2.34%	1.87%	↓	2.80%	✗	3.00%
BVPI 16a	The percentage of local authority employees with a disability.	2.59%	2.46%	↓	2.90%	✗	3.20%
BVPI 17a	The percentage of local authority employees from ethnic minority communities.	1.11%	1.16%	↑	1.50%	✗	1.80%
Improving partnership working to deliver one city							
Local Area Agreement Indicators							
NI 1 (LAA)	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	New in 200809	67.2%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
NI 4 (LAA)	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	New in 200809	26.3%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
National Indicators							
NI 2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	New in 200809	64.6%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
NI 3	Civic participation in the local area	New in 200809	8.2%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering	New in 200809	14.4%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
Outcome: By 2025 at least 25% of residents will feel that they contribute to their community and 50% of residents will feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area							
Local Area Agreement Indicators							
NI 4 (LAA)	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality	New in 200809	26.3%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
Outcome: By 2025 over 75% of people will agree that Sunderland is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together							
Local Area Agreement Indicators							
NI 1 (LAA)	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area	New in 200809	67.2%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
Outcome: We will address the barriers to creating active citizenship and increase the number of people formally volunteering to five percentage points above the national average by 2025							
National Indicators							
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering	New in 200809	14.40%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
Outcome: We will build confidence and trust in local areas so that by 2025 50% of people feel that their neighbours can be trusted and 90% of people agree that people in their local area are willing to help out their neighbours							
National Indicators							
NI 2	% of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood	New in 200809	64.6%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
Outcome: We will ensure that people feel that local services have the best interests of the community at heart so that by 2025 more than two thirds of the population agree that this is the case							

National Indicators

NI 3	Civic participation in the local area	New in 200809	8.2%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
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Local Indicators

BVPI 156	The percentage of authority buildings open to the public in which all public areas are suitable for, and accessible to, disabled people.	88.04%	88.04%	↔	90%	✘	90
BVPI 165	The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people, as a proportion of all crossings in the local authority area.	89.50%	89.7%	↑	90%	✘	90

Outcome: By 2025 feelings of safety will be at their highest level

Local Indicators

LPSA	% residents who feel safe in Sunderland	51%	66%	↑	N/A	N/A	To increase
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Outcome By 2025 levels of repeat incidents of domestic violence and assault with injury will be at their lowest levels.

Local Area Agreement Indicators

NI 20 (LAA)	Assault with injury crime rate	New in 200809	8.84 per 1,000 population	↑	3% reduction 9.32 per 1,000 population	✓	5% reduction
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National Indicators

NI 33a	The number of deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	New in 200809	15.6	N/A	Not Set	N/A	15.1
NI 33b	The number of deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population	New in 200809	77	N/A	Not Set	N/A	74.7
NI 34	Domestic violence - murder	New in 200809	0.004	N/A	baseline year	N/A	set at Police force level

Outcome: By 2025 more people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children

National Indicators

NI 22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area	New in 200809	22.2%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
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Outcome: By 2025 no one will feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood

Local Indicators

53	% of residents who feel very unsafe in Sunderland	3.80%	1.60%	↑	Not Set	N/A	Not Set
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Outcome: By 2025 no one will perceive attacks or harassment because of race, colour, religion or sexual orientation as a very serious problem in Sunderland. Feelings of safety amongst vulnerable groups will more closely reflect those of other residents across the city

National Indicators

NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration	New in 200809	39.0%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
NI 35	Building resilience to violent extremism	New in 200809	2	N/A	baseline year	N/A	3

Local Indicators

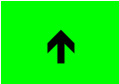
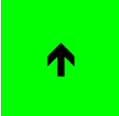
28a	% of residents who feel attacks or harassment because of race, colour or religion	New in 200809	14%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Not set
28b	% of residents who feel attacks or harassment because of sexual orientation	New in 200809	7%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Not set

Outcome: By 2025 residents will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime and perceptions of anti social behaviour will be at their lowest level and better than the national average

Local Area Agreement Indicators

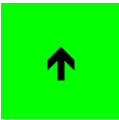

NI 17 (LAA)	Perceptions of anti social behaviour	New in 200809	23.50%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected in 2010/11
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National Indicators

BVPI 218a	Percentage of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24hrs of notification.	88.24%	95.86%		85%	✓	90
BVPI 218b	Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the Authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle.	95.74%	94.74%		90%	✓	95
LPSA 11d	The speed at which graffiti reported to the Council is removed. Measured by the average number of working days elapsed between the council receiving its first report	2.41 days	1.91 days	N/A	Not Set	N/A	2 days
NI 15	Serious crime rate	New in 200809	0.66 per 1,000 population	N/A	baseline year	N/A	To reduce by 3%
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	New in 200809	12.45 (rate of serious acquisitive crime per 1000 pop)	N/A	baseline year	N/A	To reduce by 2%
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police	New in 200809	27.70%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected 2010/11
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	New in 200809	28.70%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected 2010/11
NI 28	Serious knife crime rate	New in 200809	0.56	N/A	baseline year	N/A	set at Police force level
NI 29	Gun crime rate	New in 200809	0.061	N/A	baseline year	N/A	set at Police force level
NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	New in 200809	32.7%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected 2010/11
NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	New in 200809	30.6%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	Next collected 2010/11
NI 49a	Total number of primary fires per 100,000 population	New in 200809	252.6	N/A	baseline year	N/A	245.8
NI 49b	Total number of fatalities due to primary fires per 100,000 population	New in 200809	0.71	N/A	baseline year	N/A	0
NI 49c	Total number of non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks) per 100,000 population	New in 200809	7.5	N/A	baseline year	N/A	7.1

Outcome: By 2025 there will be the lowest ever levels of drug related (Class A) offending and proven reoffending by adult and young offenders

Local Area Agreement Indicators

NI 19 (LAA)	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	New in 200809	96 offences per 100 offenders		113 offences per 100 offenders	✓	110 offences per 100 offenders
NI 30 (LAA)	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	New in 200809	1.10		1.12 (18% reduction in convictions)	N/A	17% reduction

National Indicators

NI 18	Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision	New in 200809	-2%	N/A	baseline year	N/A	N/A
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Outcome: Hospital admissions due to alcohol will be within the 20% best performing local authorities across the country and there will be fewer repeat substance misusers accessing treatment

National Indicators

NI 40	Additional drug users in effective treatment	New in 200809	Not available until November	N/A	905 (users in treatment)	N/A	N/A
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DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDERS

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This purpose of this report is to brief the Committee on the Safer Sunderland Partnership approach to dealing with future requests for Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO's).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 DPPO's were introduced in 2001 (sec 12-16 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001) to allow designation of areas with restrictions on consumption of alcohol. The designated area does not automatically ban alcohol consumption rather it gives the Police the power to request that an individual stops drinking alcohol in that area if the officer believes that the drinking is causing or likely to cause anti-social behaviour. If the individual refuses to comply with the officers' request then a criminal offence is committed. Penalties for this offence are a Penalty notice for disorder of £50 or arrest and prosecution with maximum fine of £500. The DPPO was designed to offer a flexible approach to public space alcohol consumption which would not prevent alcohol consumption that was not anti-social in nature.
- 2.2 The introduction of a DPPO should only be considered where there is evidence of alcohol related anti-social behaviour, and if that evidence exists, application of an order must follow a defined process of public consultation. Once an Order is in place it must be publicised in the area (usually by signs on lampposts) to allow enforcement. The Home Office guidance stresses that full Police support for any order must be sought as while the Local Authority implements the Order process the enforcement of any such Order is for the Police Service.
- 2.3 In Sunderland there are a number of designated areas covering the City Centre, Sea Front area, Council Parks, Play Areas, Cemeteries and Metro stations.
- 2.4 DPPO's should not be confused with Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZ) or Drink Banning Orders (DBO).
- 2.5 Alcohol Disorder Zones were introduced by Section 19 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and permit Local Authorities (with consent of the Police) to designate areas where there are problems with alcohol-related nuisance and crime and disorder in areas with high concentrations of licensed premises. Typically this would be a city or town centre where problems could not be attributed to an individual premises (where licence conditions could be reviewed). Designation of a zone allows the imposition of charges on premises and clubs selling alcohol to pay for additional security and enforcement in that area. An ADZ is a power of last resort and the guidance states that voluntary measures to reduce problems must be used.

The same 2006 Act introduced drink banning orders which commenced on 31st August 2009.

2.6 Drink banning orders are civil orders (applied for by Local Authorities or the Police) that can be made against an individual aged at least 16 if they have engaged in criminal or disorderly conduct while under the influence of alcohol. The orders may last for between 2 months and 2 years.

The aim of the order is to protect persons from further conduct of that kind by prohibiting the individual from doing things prescribed within the order.

Individuals in receipt of an order have the opportunity to attend an approved course voluntarily in order to address their alcohol-related behaviour.

2.7 Drink banning orders are only similar to anti-social behaviour orders (ASBO's) in terms of the procedural route through which an order is obtained. Drink banning orders are available in fewer circumstances than ASBO's being only viable for criminal or disorderly conduct while under the influence of alcohol.

- Drink banning orders can be made against individuals aged 16 or over.
- The orders are aimed at individuals who have engaged in criminal or disorderly conduct while under the influence of alcohol.
- Individuals can appeal against the making of an order against them.

2.7 Prohibitions may include whatever the court considers necessary to protect others from alcohol-related crime or disorderly conduct of the individual. For example they may:

- prevent an individual from entering premises that sell alcohol
- ban an individual from entering pubs/clubs in a given vicinity

2.8 Voluntary courses will be offered to anyone receiving a DBO and will focus on educating individuals about the serious social and health impact of heavy alcohol consumption. If a person completes the course satisfactorily, the length of the length of the ban can be reduced.

3.0 Current Position & Progress – Designated Public Order Places

3.1 In Sunderland the current DPPOs have been effective as one approach to tackling alcohol disorder in public places, however it should be noted that the areas designated are either high volume public spaces such as the city centre and sea front or areas that typically attract such behaviour such as parks and play areas.

3.2 Public understanding of the DPPO is however often confused (as evidenced at some recent public meetings), where there is a mistaken belief that the order is a complete prohibition on alcohol consumption. This in turn could affect public confidence in enforcement in that some members of the public may observe alcohol consumption in the DPPO area and believe that the law is being broken.

3.3 Since 2001 there have been a small number of local authorities that have introduced borough wide DPPOs and while the latest Home Office guidance (Jan 2009) indicates that this is possible, the Home Office also advise caution against such an approach as it is difficult to evidence problematic public space alcohol consumption in every part of a borough. In Sunderland the current evidence available to the Partnership would not support the introduction of a Citywide DPPO.

3.4 There are also a range of further tools and powers that have become available since the introduction of the DPPOs in 2001. These include Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Dispersal Orders. This is in addition to

a wide range of existing and more recent public order powers. For example Section 27 of the Violent Crime Act 2006 introduced Directions to Leave whereby, if the presence of an individual (aged 16 or over) in a public place is likely to cause or contribute to alcohol related nuisance, crime or disorder, the police can issue Directions to Leave for a specified time from the area.

- 3.5 The consideration of use of a range of approaches to this issue is a key approach within the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving agenda. In practice many of these more recent powers to target identified offenders are more flexible than the process of securing a DPPO which can take up to 6 months.

4.0 Impact

In Sunderland the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups are frequently requested to consider implementing Alcohol Designation Areas and currently they consider these requests with careful analysis of local evidence and the nature of any problem. Because a number of requests had been made the Safer Sunderland Partnership reviewed its current approach.

- 4.1 The Safer Sunderland Partnership Board considered their approach to future DPPO applications at its meeting on 8th May 2009 and agreed the following approach.
- To continue to support the enforcement of existing DPPO areas
 - To support DPPO implementation in new areas where there is evidence to support such an application in line with Home Office guidance and where more targeted approaches have been demonstrated to not resolve the issue
 - That the Board did not support a citywide DPPO on the basis that there is no evidence that every part of the City experiences anti-social behaviour due to public consumption of alcohol.
 - That the LMAPS for the relevant area is responsible for consideration of requests and scoping of evidence for any future DPPO's.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to:
- Note the report and the limitations in relation to extending or introducing new DPPOs (when alternative powers may provide greater flexibility).
 - To endorse the approach outlined in the report of Safer Sunderland Partnership to future requests for DPPO's.

6.0 Background Papers

- Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006
- Drink Banning Orders guidance
- Alcohol Disorder Zones
- Guidance on Designated Public Place Orders

- Safer Sunderland Partnership – Minutes of the Board Meeting 8th May 2009.
- Partnership Paper to the Board 8th May 2009. – Item 7 Designated Public Place Orders

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SCENE SETTING REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 SEPTEMBER 2009

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an overview to the Scrutiny Committee on key current partnership responses to anti social behaviour.
- 1.2 The Committee can then consider an investigation of services as part of their review.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15 June 2009, the Scrutiny Committee agreed to pursue a review of anti social behaviour in the city, and at its meeting on 7 July 2009, it agreed a terms of reference for the study, together with a schedule of meetings. It was agreed that the September meeting would be used to set the scene in relation to current responses to anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2 This report contributes principally to the following areas within the terms of reference for the study:
 - To gain an understanding of approaches of Council and its partners in tackling anti social behaviour and ensure that strategic approach is being taken;

3. Definition

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as:

"Behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator."

- 3.2 This description of anti-social behaviour is useful as a starting point for defining nuisance activities. Such activities can include:
 - Harassment, threatening language and behaviour
 - Nuisance caused by people drinking alcohol, or being under the influence of alcohol in public places
 - Rowdy behaviour
 - Violent behaviour
 - Hoax calls to emergency services

- Vehicle nuisance, through use of untaxed, uninsured and unlicensed vehicles on highways and in public places (including 'mini moto' motorcycle nuisance)
- Noise nuisance
- The dumping of rubbish and littering
- Uncontrolled pets and fouling of public areas
- Nuisance caused by misuse of drugs and other substances
- Nuisance neighbours
- Arson and secondary fires
- Criminal damage and vandalism (including graffiti)

3.3 This list is not comprehensive but gives examples of behaviour impacting upon quality of life.

4. Policy Background

4.1 The policy background to this review is provided by the Safer Sunderland Strategy. Key documents include:-

- Safer Sunderland Strategy 2008 -2023
- Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (currently being finalised)

4.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership supports the delivery of the Safe City priority via the Safer Sunderland Strategy. This identifies a number of high level outcomes to be achieved by 2023. It also identifies a number of key shorter term strategic priorities to focus on for 2008-2011, one of which is to 'Reduce anti-social behaviour and people's perceptions of it'. The outcomes of particular relevance to ASB are:

- Outcome C - Creating a Safe Environment. Sunderland will have an environment that promotes safety and feelings of safety. By 2023 no one will feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood.
- Outcome D - Being Free from Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse. People in Sunderland will be free from crime, disorder, and substance misuse. By 2023 residents will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime rate and perceptions of anti-social behaviour will be at their lowest level and be better than the national average
- Outcome F – Creating a Supportive Family Environment. People in Sunderland will have the supportive family environment they need to help them stay free from harm and crime and disorder. By 2023, more people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children.

5. Strategic Overview

- 5.1 In order to support the Safer Sunderland Strategy and to respond to the Youth Taskforce Action Plan, the ASB Delivery Group structure has been reviewed and amended to ensure it is fit for purpose. The new structure directly links the strategic management of ASB with the foundation of activity to combat the problems of ASB, namely the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups, (LMAPS) which address those issues that members of the public see, feel and hear. Structures bring together representatives from agencies across the Safer Sunderland Partnership involved in addressing anti-social behaviour in order to develop and implement multi-agency solutions. Time limited Task and Finish Groups are formed as and when required from the membership of the group (and beyond, depending upon the expertise required), to address issues that require more detailed consideration to obtain a resolution.
- 5.2 The ASB Delivery Group has responsibility for the strategic development and implementation of the ASB Strategy and Delivery Action Plan and the anti-social behaviour LAA priority. It considers all ASB issues (young people, adults, families, environmental etc) and acts as an information sharing and consultation forum to maintain partners awareness of current policy and initiatives. It also provides a clear link to the eight LMAPS delivery groups and considers LMAPS trends across the City. Problem issues that cannot be resolved at the LMAPS level are escalated to the appropriate Safer Sunderland Delivery Group for action. It in turn reports to the Safer Sunderland Partnership's Business Support Group (BSG) or Safer Sunderland Partnership Board as appropriate. The Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) structure including the ASB structure is shown as Annex 1.
- 5.3 A draft Anti Social Behaviour Strategy has been produced and a delivery plan is in the process of being developed. Documents will be shared with relevant groups within the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP), and presented to the SSP Board at it's October 2009 meeting.
- 5.4 Details of the roles of the Council and key partners in tackling anti-social behaviour are included within the final draft strategy. A summary of roles is included as Annex 2. This includes details both of partner agencies such as the Police and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services, and also of the wide range of Council sections that are spread across Directorates and which together form the partnership response to addressing issues of ASB.

6. Current ASB Indicators

- 6.1 ASB is measured by the Local Area Agreement Indicator NI17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour. Perceptions of ASB as a problem reduced from 51% in 2003/04 to 30% in 2006/07 (a 21% reduction). The partnership forecast an overall reduction from 30% to 25% over the 3 years of the local area agreement. However the most recent (2008) Place Survey results have recently become available and this now places the perceptions of ASB at 23.5%. It is recognised that it will become increasingly difficult to keep making significant reductions against this measure. The SSP has therefore

agreed upon a 2 percentage point reduction against the 23.5% place survey baseline for the remaining term of the LAA agreement. This means that since 2003, there has been a 27.5% improvement in perceptions of ASB as a problem and a 6.5% reduction since 2006.

- 6.2 A range of partnership responses and activities to ASB, as detailed in Annex 2, have impacted upon perceptions of ASB and have led to this reduction. Reports of ASB have reduced significantly, and there have also been a number of successful diversionary activities, perhaps the most notable of which is the XL Youth Village events.
- 6.3 The duty of the Safer Sunderland Partnership to carry out an annual Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA), which gathers and examines data from a wide range of sources on crime, disorder and substance misuse problems in Sunderland, shows that the key 'headline' issues from the latest PSIA relating to anti-social behaviour issues include:
- Youth related ASB (including groups of young people 'hanging around'), is highlighted at the top priority, and in particular there is specific concern around underage drinking.
 - Alcohol Related ASB, (including underage drinking), is consistently highlighted as a local issue in all parts of the City.
- 6.4 Other ASB issues highlighted within the PSIA include:
- Speeding vehicles and damage to vehicles;
 - Drug related litter
 - Motorbikes/quad bikes.
 - Bus shelters continue to be a target for criminal damage and further work is recommended on understanding crime and perceptions of crime on public transport

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are recommended to accept this report and to consider which elements of the current partnership response to anti-social behaviour that they wish to scrutinise at future scheduled meetings.

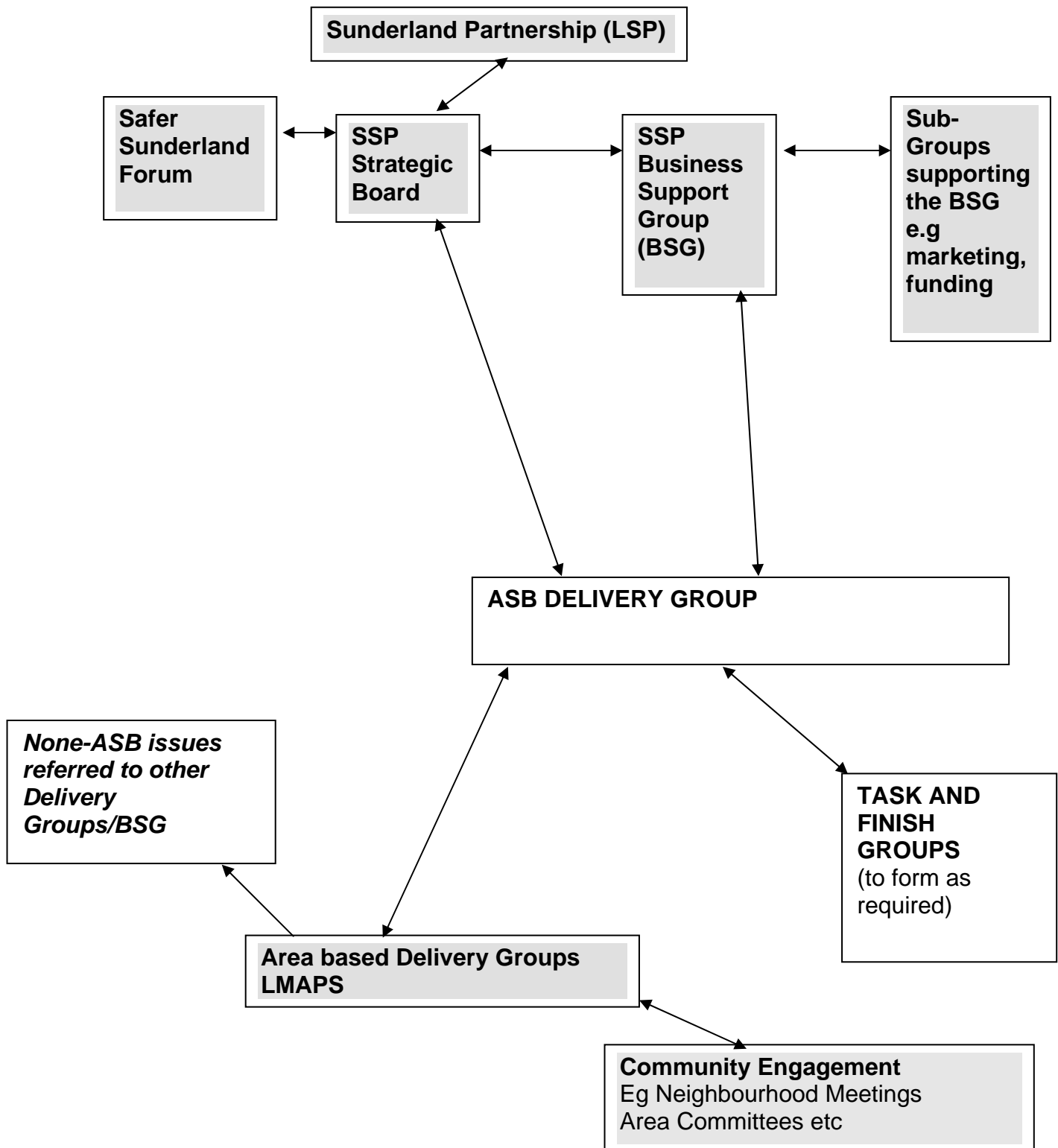
8. Background Papers

Safer Sunderland Strategy

Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (draft 2009)

Annex 1

Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) structure including ASB structure



Roles of the Council and key partners in tackling anti-social behaviour

Sunderland City Council

Safer Communities Team

The Safer Communities Team, co-ordinate partnership action to address crime, disorder, and substance misuse issues. The ASB Strategy Manager leads and co-ordinates the development and delivery of the ASB Strategy on behalf of the SSP, and supports activity in relation to tackling ASB across the City.

Central Security

Central Security plays a key role in making the City of Sunderland a Safer place to live and Work. In order to achieve this Security Services offer a professional advisory service to City Council directorates and partner agencies on all aspects of crime and security matters, in order to put measures into place to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour. This includes;

3G Rapid Deployment Cameras, which can be deployed at short notice to monitor crime or ASB Hotspots.

Flashcams, which can be deployed at short notice to combat Fly tipping, graffiti and ASB.

- Home Office qualified CPDA's (Crime Prevention Design Advisors) available to offer a Design Advisory Service to Council and Partner Agencies on all aspects of "Designing Out" crime.
- CAEC (City Alarm and Emergency Centre) who currently monitor in excess of 600 CCTV cameras City Wide as well as property alarms, emergency support services, lone worker support, vehicular panic attack monitoring and response and Major Incident initiation on behalf of the Council and its partners.
- Provide training to Lone Workers and Front Line/Enforcement Staff on dealing with aggressive and potentially violent persons.
- Facilitate and Manage and the City Centre Night Time Taxi Marshall project

Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal. Anti-Social Behaviour Team

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team works in partnership with other Services and Directorates of the Council and external partners and organisations and provides the City Council's front line response to the local community in dealing with issues of anti-social behaviour utilising the tools and powers available in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. It works across the City focusing upon anti-social behaviour and crime "hot-spot" areas in all tenures but with particular focus on the private rented sector. This includes:

- working with private landlords to develop good practice initiatives for managing their properties and reducing instances of criminal or anti-social behaviour in the private rented sector.
- Working with local communities to build up trust and encourage reporting of anti-social behaviour;
- Identifying perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and developing appropriate interventions, in partnership with other agencies;
- Addressing anti-social behaviour with young people at an early stage to prevent their behaviour from escalating, identifying any support needs and helping to link to relevant agencies;
- Investigating reports of anti-social behaviour in accordance with the tools and powers of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 which includes, sending early warning letters to perpetrators regarding their alleged anti-social behaviour, undertaking and implementing and monitoring Acceptable Behaviour Agreements;
- Taking forward applications for Anti-social Behaviour Orders and attending court in accordance with the procedures of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, and monitoring the effectiveness of the ASBO on an annual basis in accordance with recent changes in legislation;
- Supporting victims and witnesses including accompanying to court, acting as third party witness, engaging witness protection services

The team seeks to introduce lasting solutions and generally uses enforcement methods alongside support mechanisms. This promotes the culture that there are sanctions and consequences to those perpetrators only as a last resort. Since its formation in 2004 the team has obtained six Anti-social Behaviour Orders against perpetrators of serious anti-social behaviour. This has helped to restore harmony in those local communities affected by ASB. The team has also secured 101 Acceptable Behaviour Agreement's (ABAs) signed by perpetrators of anti social behaviour

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team deals with approximately 500 complaints/requests for service raised by the public, businesses, etc. to deal with anti-social behaviour per year with up to an additional 200 partnership referrals cases.

The Neighbourhood Relations Team is situated within the Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Unit, which also includes the Housing Enforcement Team, the Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing Team and the Area Renewal Team.

There are strong links between anti-social behaviour and sub-standard or mismanaged accommodation and the teams within the Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Unit work together to modify behaviour of tenants and landlords.

The Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Unit predominately utilises the tools and powers within the legislative framework of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and the Housing Act 2004. The unit also encourages all Registered Social Landlords working in Sunderland to adopt and sign up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management. In partnership with 'Gentoo', the unit also

commissions a mediation service to help in resolving disputes involving neighbours, landlords and tenants. This service is available to all citizens of Sunderland. The unit also commissions a Family Intervention Project (FIP) which deals with the most challenging families displaying anti-social behaviour and uses a persistent approach to assist families to modify their behaviour. The capacity of the Family Intervention Project is currently 12 floating support places and 5 dispersed housing places.

The unit also commissions mediation services in relation to neighbour disputes via an organisation called UNITE.

Children's Services

Extended Family Pathfinder

The Extended Family Pathfinder is now well underway and delivering a significant level of service with four members of staff from the Sungate Parenting Project in post and two pending and Young Carer staff from Sunderland Carers' Centre in place.

The Sungate Parenting Project currently has 28 active cases and a steady stream of referrals is being received. Sunderland carers' Centre has offered support packages to 4 families using Pathfinder support funding.

A family consultation event held at the Raich Carter Centre on 31st January 2009 provided valuable information about the priorities of young carers and their families completed and this is now in use to inform the progress of the work.

Parenting Programmes

The Family and Parenting Board are in the process of commissioning Parenting programmes and services for 2009-2010. This will ensure that sufficient and appropriate universal, targeted and specialist Parenting provision will be available across the City. Specifically, engagement work with dads and parents/carers who do not engage with mainstream Parenting provision will be commissioned, as well as parent peer groups, 1-1 support with families with complex needs and targeted and specialist Parenting programmes. The Parenting Operations Group are currently distributing the Sunderland Parenting Programme Directory. This will increase the awareness of all practitioners working with local parents/carers about the provision that is open to them and enable them to signpost or refer families to a Parenting programme or Parenting support. Details of current Parenting programmes and a Parenting calendar are now available from the Families Information Service.

Targeted Youth Support

By 31 December 2008, Targeted Youth Support was in place in all areas of the city. Panels are working to co-ordinate resources for young people aged 13-19. Referrals for the Challenge and Support Workers come through these panels. The target the year is to work with 20 families and discussions are planned with the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team to identify further families who would benefit from the service.

Challenge and Support

The Youth Taskforce Action Plan is already having an impact in Sunderland. Approximately £250,000 has been secured to establish a 'Challenge and Support' project to stop poor behaviour in young people from escalating, and posts have recently been recruited. This project contributes to two of the four strands of the Safer Sunderland Strategy in that the project will provide a 'challenge' (so fitting with the enforcement strand), at the same time as 'support' (so linking with the support strand).

Youth Offending Service

The City Council's Youth Offending Service offer a range of parenting advice, support and guidance at a universal, targeted and specialist level. This includes statutory parenting courses. In recent years on average 3500 parents have attended programmes. In the last year Sunderland has successfully bid for three new parenting initiatives: one for work in schools, the second for parenting work linked to ASB and the third for work with parents whose children are looked who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan. The latter project has been extremely successful and Sunderland is judged as delivering one of the top 10 projects in the UK.

The Youth Offending Service also operates 'Wear Kids' and a Community Payback scheme. 'Wear Kids' and works with young people 8-13 who are beginning to become involved in Anti-Social Behaviour or who have siblings who already are susceptible to peer pressure.

Funds are being secured to establish additional family intervention provision to continue to deal with the most anti-social families. This builds upon the existing ASB Family Intervention Project (FIP) and is likely to work with those families containing both young people and offenders within the family. This could perhaps be described as a Crime FIP.

Youth Development Group

A successful 'XL Youth Village' scheme was piloted in one area of the City in the summer of 2008 and delivered by the A690 Youth Project, the commissioned youth provider for the chosen area. This resulted in a substantial reduction in ASB in the area where the scheme operated (a reduction in crime of 34%; some evenings incidents reduced to zero; 856 young people attended the events including 23 out of 25 young people identified as targets) and funds are being sought to repeat the scheme and to extend it to other areas of the City.

The young people from the summer pilot applied and were successful in receiving funding via the Youth Opportunity Fund, for a winter pilot to look at continuing the XL events utilising a combination of outdoor and indoor provision. This is still ongoing but early signs are showing that the events held so far are well attended by young people.

The YDG have been successful in acquiring capital funding to purchase a state of the art 'youth village' and additional 'mobile youth provision'.

Additionally funding has also been set aside to upgrade the original XL provision. Funding is still being sourced for a third 'youth village'. The revenue funding needed to resource the provision has been secured and commencement of delivery is expected June 2009. This will provide City wide provision targeted at Friday and Saturday evenings in areas identified as high in Youth ASB and which currently lack centre based youth provision. A multi agency steering group will be set up to oversee this initiative. The additional mobile provision (consisting of a youth bus, cage, health information trailer and climbing wall) can also be used to showcase the work of the YDG and voluntary sector partners at events across the city.

City Services

Sport & Leisure

A citywide Targeted Youth Engagement (TYE) project successfully reduced youth related disorder in hotspots and at peak disorder times. It deployed outreach workers to engage with young people and divert them away from problem behaviour and into more positive activities. The project ended in September 2008 with young people signposted into mainstream activities

The Positive Futures social inclusion programme has been attracting young people into positive activities since 2002. The Fitness Friday initiative (funded by BOTM) at the Raich Carter Sports Centre in Hendon has helped more than 120 young people keep out of trouble by offering them a wide choice of fitness, dance and sports activities, all of which are delivered by qualified coaches. It has been effective in reducing youth related ASB and crime within the area and is just one of a wide range of activities across the city that are helping to positively channel young peoples' energies. By focussing on 'hot spots' for youth disorder, 'Positive Futures', has helped to prevent problems from occurring.

Environmental Services

A team of Environmental Enforcement Officers and a Local Environment Manager have recently been recruited within the Environmental Services Department to tackle and combat environmental crime across the city.

The team consisting of 12 officers and a manager, will enforce all elements of environmental crime ranging from dog fouling and household waste to illegal dumping and street litter control.

Officers have been allocated areas throughout the city and will be identifying and targeting hotspots or 'grot-spots' within their own areas. Working with the local businesses and residents these areas will be targeted and those individuals or companies found to be adversely affecting the local area will be targeted with a range of environmental powers including legal notices, fixed penalty notices and prosecutions.

Education campaigns will be undertaken in conjunction with any enforcement to highlight the nuisance caused by litter and waste to any area but also to raise awareness of the potential consequence of such activities.

Licensing Section and Trading Standards Section

The Licensing Section administers and enforces the Licensing Act. One of the objectives of the Act is the prevention of crime and disorder. In order to address this issue the section works closely with other statutory agencies, e.g. the Police and the Trading Standards Section of Community and Cultural Services, via the Council's Licensing Act Responsible Authorities Group (LARAG).

The Licensing Section receives intelligence about anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol supplied from licensed premises such as off licences and public houses. This information is used to inform decision-making upon matters such as the grant of licences, variations of hours, the conditions imposed upon licences and the revocation of licences.

The Licensing Section intervenes with licensees where breaches of legislation and conditions come to light e.g. failure to provide CCTV coverage or the exceeding of opening hours.

The Licensing Section encourages licensees to go beyond compliance with the law in reducing the potential for anti-social behaviour by delivering, in partnership with other agencies, a Best Bar None scheme. Sunderland's first edition of this nationally-recognised scheme was completed earlier this year. Nationally, the scheme is considered to have led to an improvement in standards in public houses and night clubs. Feedback upon our scheme, which covered the City Centre, was positive and, so, it is planned to extend its remit to the whole of the City in 2009/10.

The Licensing Section licenses also Hackney Carriages and, so, are involved in the arranging of the highly-regarded taxi marshal scheme in the City Centre. The feedback from both the taxi trade and the travelling public is that the scheme provides a safer and more pleasant transport experience.

The Trading Standards Section has the responsibility for enforcing the law prohibiting the sale of alcohol to persons under 18. Such offences, as well as having negative impacts upon the health of young people, often lead to incidences of anti-social behaviour. The Trading Standards Section seeks to educate off licensees and their staff about avoiding such sales and, where appropriate, sends child volunteers into premises to attempt test purchases. Illegal sales can lead to prosecutions and reviews of offenders' licences.

Northumbria Police

Sunderland Area Command is committed to Neighbourhood Policing which is provided by teams of Police Officers, CSOs and Special Constables with support from partners. The key objective in the Northumbria Police Strategy for 2008-2011 is 'to build trust and confidence in the community and reduce crime and disorder'. Policing priorities to support this key objective include:

- Reduce crime by 2% .
- Increase detections by a further 1%

- re-assure the public, reduce the fear of crime and ASB;
- improve public perception of the fear of crime and ASB
- reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs;
- increase visibility of staff and community engagement, especially amongst those hard to reach communities.
- Engage and listen to the community and deal with those issues that affect the quality of life of community members.
- Keep the community and partners updated
- Operation Gryphon is Sunderland Area Command response to collection and sharing of information and data linked to ASB and alcohol seizures from persons.

Registered Social Landlords

The larger Registered Social Landlords (housing associations) operating in Sunderland also provide neighbourhood relations services to address disputes between residents and to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Registered Social Landlords are represented within the ASB Delivery Group structures and in the Registered Social Landlords Forums. All Registered Social Landlords working in Sunderland are being encouraged to adopt and sign up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management.

The largest Registered Social Landlords in the city is Gentoo who are a committed partner within the Safer Sunderland Partnership. Gentoo work closely with other agencies, including the Police, Probation Service and Fire Service as well as Sunderland City Council. They are also actively involved with delivery groups, including the LMAPs (Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups), the Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership and the ASB Strategic Delivery groups.

Gentoo also sits within other parts of the Local Strategic Partnership having direct relevance to promoting neighbourhood safety, including Community Cohesion groups, the Parenting Board and the Community Development Strategy Group. Gentoo now has a ASB Customer Focus Group and a specialised Neighbourhood Safety Team which is dedicated to the reduction of anti social behaviour and improving fear of crime and misperceptions. Gentoo have recently published their Neighbourhood Safety Strategy 2008-2011 which brings together their objectives for tackling nuisance, crime and anti-social behaviour.

The four strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Safety strategy are;

- Prevent and minimise ASB and perceptions of it by taking a long-term approach which combines prevention and early intervention, support and swift enforcement where necessary.
- Empower our neighbourhoods to feel safe and secure, particularly where there are more vulnerable groups.
- Provide tailored support to victims as well as offenders.

- Engage fully with others to deliver coherent, long-term solutions and communicate our actions to our partners, other organisations and our communities.

Following a successful pilot in 2007/2008 within the North area of Sunderland, Gentoo's Neighbourhood Safety Team has now expanded to include two Victim Support Officers and an Anti Social Behaviour Prevention Officer. These new team members work closely with the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers and the team are aiming to strike a balance between prevention and early intervention, support and enforcement. Victim Support Officers complete a customer lead Support Needs Plan with every victim of ASB to ensure all customer support needs are met and to monitor the success of support measures in terms of how safe they feel at the time of the initial report and how safe they feel after the case is closed. To date 98% of the 156 customers that have received support advise that the level of support they have received has been just right. At the point of closure of the case there has also been a dramatic positive impact on how safe the customer now feels in their home.

Gentoo have also been actively initiating or facilitating diversionary activities for a number of years with view to lowering the cases of youth disorder and fear of youth crime within Neighbourhood areas.

Following the introduction of the new Anti Social Behaviour Prevention Officer role they will soon be initiating a framework that will enable them to clearly identify which Neighbourhood areas are most problematic for youth disorder and youth crime.

Working closely with Northumbria Police and using the feedback from over 25000 Gentoo customers, the framework will also allow Gentoo to identify which areas are wrongly perceived as having issues with youth disorder and crime. This will enable Gentoo to employ positive initiatives to combat the damaging effects that this has on the negatively stigmatized areas.

The initiation of this framework demonstrates Gentoo's commitment to the continuous development of Neighbourhood areas and offers optimum benefit to our communities.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service as a 'responsible authority' under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are statutorily obliged to work in partnership with other responsible authorities to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse. The Fire and Rescue Service also has requirements to meet principal targets to reduce arson and secondary fires. Fires of this nature are often linked to other acts of anti-social behaviour and the Fire Service has acknowledged that working in partnership to reduce arson will have great benefit not only in reducing its own targets but will improve the quality of life for communities in general. Fire and Rescue personnel are also respected

individuals within the communities in which they work. Initiatives being undertaken by the Fire Service in terms of increasing safety in Sunderland include the Eco-Rangers project and the Phoenix Project. The Phoenix Project is an award winning partnership initiative working with young people known to be, or at risk of, offending between the ages of 12 and 17. Phoenix provides a basic work experience programme and all participants volunteer to go on the course, which seeks to foster the benefits of working within a disciplined uniformed team. The project is committed to improving the life chances of every young person it works with by introducing them to Life Skills and Responsibilities. The young people attending the course have their progress monitored and assessed. The Phoenix course has now been expanded to include the Phoenix Plus and the Phoenix Respect Courses which allow Phoenix graduates to attend further courses if they do not re-offend and attend school regularly following the initial course. If a young person continues to reframe from offending for three months from the completion of the Base Phoenix course they will be invited to attend the Respect Phoenix course, if the then continue to not offend or be involved in antisocial behaviour for a further 6 months they will be invited to attend a residential advanced Phoenix course.

TWFRS also operate a Neighbourhood Fire Team which works with partner agencies such as Northumbria Police and Gentoo to identify potential areas of fire related anti-social behaviour, such as deliberate property or refuse fires, and introduce appropriate measures to prevent these types of incidents.

Nexus

Addressing anti-social behaviour on public transport

Whilst crime is rare on public transport, fear of crime is high. This is because passengers are exposed daily to very visible anti-social behaviour, low level disorder, graffiti and glass etching which have a cumulative effect in terms of feeling intimidated and threatened.

Low level disorder and anti-social behaviour blights much of the public transport network in Sunderland and contributes to some people having negative perceptions about the safety of using public transport especially in the evenings.

The following initiatives aim to tackle anti-social behaviour, reduce fear of crime and reassure the users of public transport:

- A Nexus Bus Station Manager is responsible for Park Lane, Hetton, Concord and the Galleries bus stations. His role includes working with partners to champion the safety and security of passengers at these locations. He works closely with the Neighbourhood Policing teams to address issues of anti-social behaviour at bus stations.
- CCTV cameras, to deter anti-social behaviour and reassure passengers, are located at all 4 bus stations
- Most buses have onboard CCTV to deter and reassure.

- Private security officers patrol Park Lane bus station in the evening to address issues of anti-social behaviour.
- Infrastructure Providers have a rapid repair and maintenance policy for damaged bus shelters to minimise the impact of anti-social behaviour.
- Nexus works with Neighbourhood Policing teams to identify bus shelters susceptible to damage and anti-social behaviour.
- Police Officers are encouraged to travel free of charge on public transport to deter poor/nuisance behaviour.
- The Nexus District Bus Manager for Sunderland visits schools to promote responsible behaviour on scholars' services and public transport, in general.
- The Sunderland Metro line is patrolled by British Transport Police. The 7 officers covering this section of the Metro were supplemented by 4 Community Support Officers hired by Nexus in March 2009. The role of the team is to tackle disorder and reassure passengers.
- All Metro stations have highly visible 24 hours a day digital CCTV cameras.
- Metro cars have digital CCTV cameras.
- Metro employs a Graffiti Cleaning team to minimise the impact of graffiti on the Metro network.

Whilst public transport in Sunderland is overwhelmingly safe, there is a disproportionately high fear of crime among passengers especially in the evening. This is the result of regular exposure to low level disorder and anti-social behaviour that manifests itself at bus shelters, on buses and Metros and at bus and Metro stations.

Community Payback

Offenders on community payback schemes operated by both the Youth Offending Service and Probation Service, have responded to criminal damage and anti social behaviour by removing damaged fencing, clearing fly tipping, clearing and maintaining the appearance of void properties and generally enhancing the local area's appearance which improves perceptions of anti social behaviour and can help reduce fear of crime.

Between April 08 to March 09 offenders on the Probation Service scheme completed 42.4 thousand hours of Community Payback in Wearside. This equates to approximately £254,000 of labour(using minimum wage).

Of this, in excess of 15 thousand hours of Community Payback were completed on behalf of Sunderland City Council equating to £91,000 worth of labour. A further 13,000 hours work were completed in Sunderland with the Housing Company Gentoo, valued at £78,000.

The Probation Service has responded to criminal damage and anti social behaviour by removing damaged fencing, clearing fly tipping, clearing and maintaining the appearance of void properties and generally enhancing the

local area's appearance which improves perceptions of anti social behaviour and can help reduce the fear of crime.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service also provide community payback to young people on substantive court orders as part of the restorative Justice process, allowing young people to make amends within the communities within which they offend.

Community Payback takes many forms from graffiti removal, litter picking and repairing community facilities. During the period 1st April 2007 to March 2008 618 young people took place in community payback on various schemes.

Kickz

Kickz has been running in Sunderland North since 2007. In some instances youth anti-social behaviour has decreased by 45% on its traditional Friday evening. The project now also runs on Monday evening (as a project night) and Wednesdays. Recently a chill out area and classroom have been opened, so further drop-ins, activities and provision can be offered. There are 622 on the register with an average attendance of 70-100 per night.

Resources permitting it is anticipated that Kickz will be expanded into Concord Washington and the East of Sunderland from September 09.

Safer Sunderland Partnership TV

Safer Sunderland Partnership TV (SSPTV) is a network of 10 plasma TV screens in community venues across the city (e.g. in hospitals, supermarkets, cafes, post offices, and libraries) which helps to tackle the fear of crime and ASB. The screens are used to promote a wide range of community safety services and reassurance messages. SSPTV is making a difference. Between 51%-71% of people who watched the screens said they felt safer having seen the content. Some have taken up the advice they've seen including making use of crime prevention tips and reporting anti-social behaviour. In 2006, the TV system was commended as part of the National Good Communication Awards recognising the network as an innovative way to deliver positive messages to residents.

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 SEPTEMBER
2009

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 September – 31 December 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 The Forward Plan for the period 1 September – 31 December 2009 is attached marked **Appendix 1**. As requested by members at the last meeting, only those items which are under the remit of the Committee have been included. The remit of the Committee covers the following themes:-

Safer Sunderland Strategy, Social Inclusion, Community Safety; Anti Social Behaviour; Domestic Violence; Community Cohesion; Equalities; Licensing Policy and Regulation, Community Associations, Registrars.

2.4 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 September – 31 December 2009.

4. Background Papers
None

Contact Officer : Jim Diamond 0191 561 1396
james.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the period 01/Sep/2009 to 31/Dec/2009

Items which fall within the remit of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01303	To agree Neighbourhood Management & Selective Licensing Policy	Cabinet	07/Oct/2009	Cabinet, Service Users and Carer Groups, Portfolio Holder, Adult Services Staff, Health Partners	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via Contact Officer by 21 September 2009 - Community and Safer City & Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committees	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690
01284	To endorse the Anti Social Behaviour Review	Cabinet	07/Oct/2009	Cabinet, Service Users and Carer Groups, Portfolio Holder, Adult Services Staff, Health Partners	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via Contact Officer by 21 September 2009 - Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee	Report	Graham King	5661894